

WEEKEND READING FOR THE PRESIDENT

20-21 December 1969

EUROPE

1. (a) "Russians Looking for Western Know-How,"  
THE ECONOMIST Foreign Report, 11 Dec. 1969.
- (b) "Soviets Enter West Europe's Natural Gas  
Market," CIA Weekly Summary, 19 Dec. 1969.

The Economist and the CIA both take note of recent major developments in the Soviet Union's economic relations with Western Europe. The Soviets are eagerly expanding their sales of natural gas and other materials to Western Europe, in order to earn the foreign exchange and credits needed for increased Soviet purchases of such things as heavy-diameter steel pipe from the West. The Soviet interest in greater technological cooperation with the West may be one of the major incentives behind the Soviet campaign for a "European Security Conference."

ON-FILE NSC RELEASE  
INSTRUCTIONS APPLY

SINO-SOVIET CONFLICT

2. CIA, Office of National Estimates, "China's  
Stance Toward the Soviets," Staff Memorandum,  
15 December 1969.

This interesting analytical piece discusses China's motivation in entering border talks with the Soviet Union. The Chinese are aware that they are bargaining from weakness, the analysis suggests, and they probably see considerable advantage in prolonging discussion, since this reduces the likelihood of Soviet military action against them. But the Soviets will only be tempted to increase their pressure, and there may be some internal division in Peking as to whether to continue the talks or place much hope in them.

ASIA AND THE PACIFIC

3. Edwin O. Reischauer, three articles written for publication in the Tokyo Asahi Shimbun, November 1969.

The former Ambassador to Japan praises the November 21 Nixon-Sato communique as the best and only possible solution to a problem that had "lain like a dangerous rock squarely in the course of Japanese-American relations." He urges the Japanese to move toward a greater economic and political-military role in Asia, eventually a leadership role, though necessarily in close cooperation with the United States. He notes that the Guam Doctrine brings U.S. policy into line with what most Japanese would regard as a wise and desirable U.S. posture, and that this in itself will help prompt the Japanese to undertake new responsibilities. (A one-page summary precedes the texts of the articles.)

4. Frank Riley, "Micronesia: The Big Lie," Far Eastern Economic Review, December 11, 1969.

Taken from an influential East Asian news magazine published in Hong Kong and generally friendly to us, this article describes a rather disturbing development. It is an explicit attack on the United States Government for attempting to rush Micronesia into a permanent relationship with the U.S. The article picks up most of the Micronesians' arguments against us: the alienation of land to military bases, the possibility of Micronesia's being drawn again into somebody else's war, the "zoo keeper philosophy" of previous U.S. Administrations, and particularly the fears that we are not going to allow the Micronesians to opt for independence.

The article is written from Honolulu, which has apparently become something of a center of Micronesian intellectual life and independence aspirations, primarily because it is where Micronesians are going for their higher education.

AMERICAN FOREIGN POLICY

5. Seyom Brown, The Great Foreign Policy Debate, RAND Corp. paper, April 1968.

A thoughtful discussion of the breakdown of the postwar American public consensus on foreign policy goals and premises. Until recently, he points out, foreign policy debates always took place within a certain basic consensus -- on our essential national interests, on the threats to those interests, and on the basic policies needed to counter those threats. The consensus is gone, and no new one has yet replaced it (he wrote as of April 1968). Our challenge, he concludes, is to fashion a compelling rationale for our continued involvement in the world; this rationale must move us, and draw upon Americans' sense of mission, or else isolationism will fill the void.